

SF BAY AREA SOLIDARITY GROUPS: Silkscreen and Offset Posters

We are pleased to offer the following list of posters produced by various organizations, committees and individuals for a variety of domestic and international causes.

Much of the work was produced under the auspices of Fireworks, a group of activists from the San Francisco Bay Area who promoted their anti-imperialist platform through a variety of images. These images proved highly effective, being simply but also creative. Fireworks was related to the Praire Fire Organizing Committee which was itself an offshoot of the Weather Underground. In this sense, Fireworks represents a continuation of the radical politics and idealism of the New Left—this is particularly evident in their tendency to favor silkscreen production, the popularity of which came to light during the 1960s. Jos Sances, a printer who relocated to the Bay Area from Boston, shared a space with Fireworks.

Sances was instrumental in the founding of Mission Grafica alongside Rene Castro, an individual whose work is also represented in this list. The two were well-respected printers and educators in San Francisco's Mission District who had close ties with La Raza Graphics and Mission Cultural Center, two hotbeds of Chicano art and politics during the 1960s and 1970s.

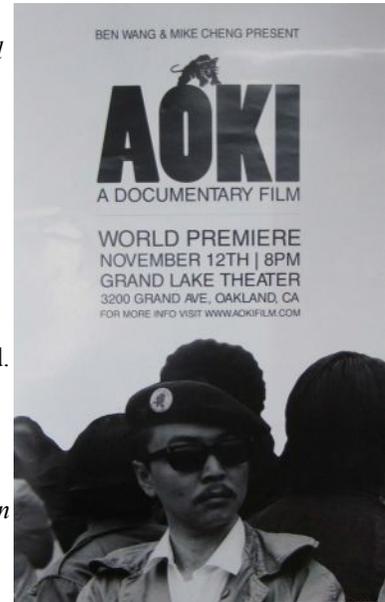
Among the vibrant images of the screenprints we see messages of solidarity that went out to Latin America, Africa and individuals here in the United States (such as Joann Little, a prisoner tried for murder after a guard sexually assaulted her). The collection as a whole captures various episodes in the history of San Francisco Bay Area social movements as they were represented graphically. Spaces such as the Mission Cultural Center and artists such as Castro played no small part in illustrating these colorful, fiery, diverse and uncompromising movements.



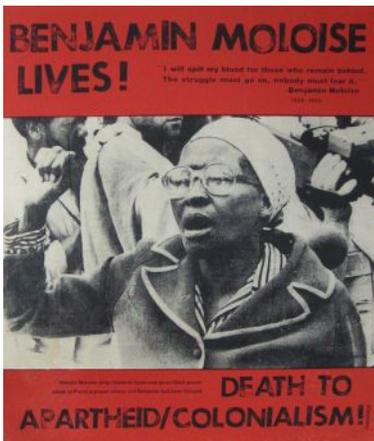
1. **"ALTO A LA REPRESION" [COVER TITLE]**. San Francisco: Caracol de la Mission, 2006. 17x11 in. offset poster.
Poster in solidarity with the people of Atenco who, in the first decade of the 21st century, were subject to police brutality and violence against women. Caracol de la Mission is a San Francisco based solidarity group which held fundraisers and outreach events. This poster in particular calls for the release of political prisoners held in connection with the 2006 unrest that resulted in two protester's deaths and the sexual assault of dozens of women (164549) \$15.00

2. **"AOKI: A DOCUMENTARY FILM" PROMOTIONAL POSTER**. No place: No publisher, No date. 17x11 in. offset poster. Very Good.
Promotional poster for the 2009 documentary film "Aoki." Bay Area native and known as a civil rights activist and member of the Black Panther Party,

rising to a position of leadership. Aoki is widely credited with arming the Black Panthers and providing weapons training. It was later discovered that Aoki served as an FBI informant for over 15 years. His death, initially reported as caused by complications from dialysis, was later revealed to be suicide (164548) \$15.00



3. **"AZANIA WILL BE FREE" [COVER TITLE]**. San Francisco: Fireworks, No date. 25x21 in. silkscreen print, edges stained, colors still bright. Good.
Original silkscreen print produced by Fireworks, the multi-media activist organization that started in the Bay Area in 1981. Produced to show solidarity with South African liberation movements (164568) \$35.00



4. **BENJAMIN MOLOISE LIVES!** San Francisco: Fireworks, 1985. Very Good.
Iconic image produced to celebrate the life and struggle of Moloise, a poet, factory worker and member of the African National Congress. Accused of murdering a police officer and hanged under the oppressive regime of P.W. Botha. This image depicts his father singing and raising his fist outside the Pretoria prison where Benjamin was hanged (164564) \$40.00

5. **"BUILD A WALL OF RESISTANCE, DON'T TALK TO THE F.B.I." [COVER TITLE]**. San Francisco: Fireworks, No date. 22x16 in. silkscreen printed on newsprint. Very Good.

One of many iconic designs of the era of groups in solidarity with liberation struggles around the world. Produced by San Francisco based media activist collective Fireworks and distributed, re-appropriated and re-fashioned numerous times. Our variant is a black and white silkscreen on newsprint with the Fireworks name in it's standard vertical orientation along the right-hand edge (164561) \$45.00



6. Castro, Rene. "CASTRO: AN INSTALLATION" [COVER TITLE]. San Francisco: Mission Cultural Center, 1983. First printing. 42x26 in. silkscreen print. Very Good.

A large silkscreen print by Rene Castro to commemorate a 1983 exhibition. Castro founded Mission Grafica along with his longtime work associate Jose Sances. At the time of this exhibition, Castro was working as a printer and teacher, having established a reputation for high quality work. This piece is no exception, making use of several colors and design elements. While the work as all the design flair of the 1980s--neon colors against dark backgrounds, free form shapes constricted against geometric ones--the text and primary image reflect deeper concerns: the caption reads "Nuclear war a dangerous sport" and depicts a skull and below it a funerary cross. An arresting and impressive image from one of the finest printers to witness and partake in the Chicano arts and graphics movement born from the politics and social movements of the 1960s and 1970s (164569) \$300.00

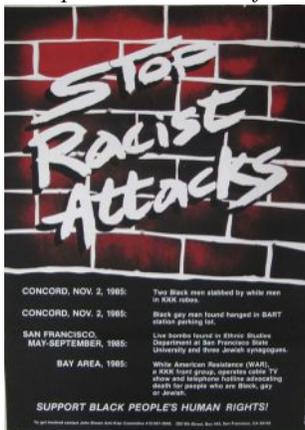


7. Castro, Renee. [CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND REVOLUTIONARY EVENTS IN SOUTH AMERICA]. San Francisco: La Raza Graphics, 1982. 23x17.5 in. silkscreen print, multi-color. Very Good. *An original silkscreen produced at La Raza Graphics in San Francisco Mission District Neighborhood in 1982, on the cusp of a major paradigm shift for the storied institution. La Raza Graphics evolved from La Raza Information Center which provided a number of social services, and worked closely with the defense committee of "Los Siete"; seven Latino youths falsely accused of shooting a police officer. Eventually, the milieu of expats, refugees and activists turned to art as a means of supplementing their efforts that focused on the concerns of the local community. Rene Castro was one of the artists who made extensive use of the silkscreen shop and this work clearly draws*

inspiration from his experiences as a political prisoner in Pinochet's Chile. He pays homage to four important dates: the September 11 coup, the assassination of economist and socialist Orlando Letelier by DINA, the death of Pablo Neruda and the execution of Che Guevara in Bolivia. This would have been one of the last silkscreens produced at La Raza Graphics before it shifted to offset printing and with a focus on job training. Signed and dated by Castro (164533) \$200.00

8. Fireworks. **"DEMONSTRATE; INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 1983"** [COVER TITLE]. San Francisco: Fireworks / New Movement in Solidarity with the Puerto Rican and Mexican Revolutions. 23x15 in. offset poster, perpendicular folds that meet at the center. Very Good.

Depicts, in black and white, a woman standing with an AK-47 slung over her shoulder. Next to her are four panels with illustrations of women in various liberation movements around the world; New Afrikan demonstrations, Carmen Valentin a Puerto Rican political prisoner, female Palestinian guerrillas and U.S. women protesting imperialism and global capitalism. The march advertised was schedule for March 12 at the Port Chicago Weapons Station in Concord, CA, which was worked mainly by African-Americans during WWII and was the site of a deadly munitions explosion and labor protests over unsafe working conditions (164545) \$30.00

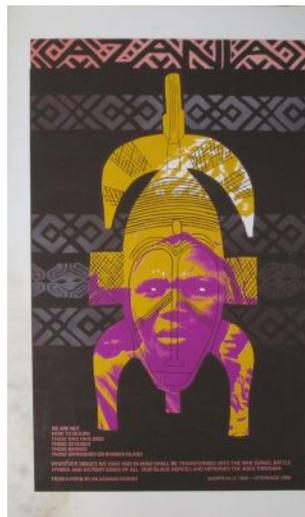


9. Fireworks. **"STOP RACIST ATTACKS"** [COVER TITLE]. San Francisco: Fireworks, 1985. 21x15.5 in. color poster. Very Good.

A poster denouncing the violent actions of white supremacist groups in the San Francisco Bay Area and its satellite cities. Calls for the public to "Support Black People's Human Rights" and includes contact info for the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee (164528) \$35.00

10. **"FOR AN END TO U.S. INTERVENTION RESIST THE WARMAKERS"** [COVER TITLE]. San Francisco: Fireworks, No date. 24x18 in. silkscreen printed on newsprint, two intersecting folds. Very Good.

A silkscreen produced by multi-media activists Fireworks in the 1980s. A call to action for U.S. supporters of liberation movements in Central America, suggesting that liberation struggles begin in the country were the generals and politicians reside (164559) \$40.00



11. **"FROM A POEM BY AN AZANIAN PATRIOT"** [COVER TITLE]. San Francisco: Fireworks, 1985. 24.5x16.25 in silkscreen print, some dirt and warping along left-hand edge.

Elaborate image depicts a face superimposed on a false-color image of a man. In solidarity with the South African Liberation movements such as the Pan Africanist Congress, Socialist Party of Azania and the New Black Panther Party. Created by the San Francisco based multi-media activist collective Fireworks. Features a poem from an excerpt (164552) \$25.00

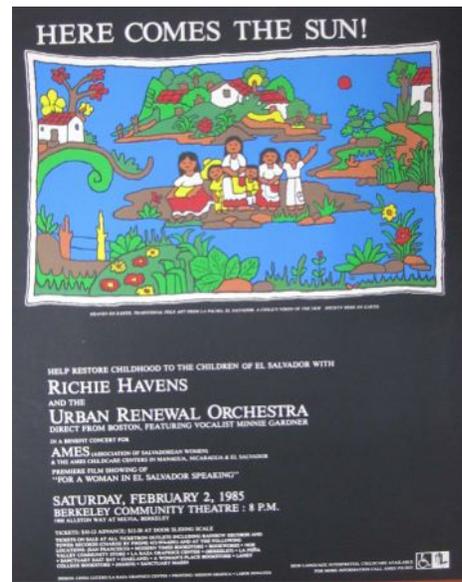
12. Garcia, Rupert. **"FREE NELSON MANDELA"** [COVER TITLE]. Oakland: Liberation Support Movement / United Nations Centre Against Apartheid, 1981. 22.5x17.5 in. offset poster, water stain to lower left-hand corner and some small creases, tape on reverse side of image from public display.

Text in English, Spanish and French, calling for the immediate release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners in South Africa. Image is by Rupert Garcia, a leading artist of the Bay Area Chicano movement in the 1960s and 1970s. Features a large silhouetted portrait of Mandela, such that his face is roughly in the shape of the African continent. On the reverse is a collection of statements by Mandela as they appear in numerous articles and interview. Bears the seal of the San Francisco chapter of the Graphic Arts International Union in the lower right-hand corner (164538) \$20.00



13. Lucero, Linda. **"HERE COMES THE SUN!" [COVER TITLE]**. San Francisco: La Raza Graphics / Mission Grafica, 1985. 24.5x19.5 in color offset poster mounted on 25x20 in. backing board. Very Good.

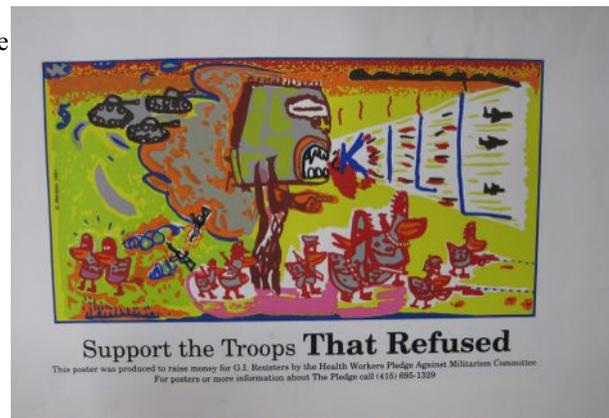
Advertising a benefit concert for the women and children of El Salvador, scheduled for February 2, 1985 in Berkeley, CA. The poster, printed in San Francisco, features headliners Riche Havens and--in what now has an entirely different meaning--a group called the "Urban Renewal Orchestra." With a colorful folk art painting of a family among a few dealings in the middle of a lake. Designed by Linda Lucero, a prominent member of the Chicano art and graphics scene of the 1960s, 70s an beyond (164554) \$45.00



14. McKay, Colleen; Stephen Cagan; Fireworks. **"WOMAN TO WOMAN" [COVER TITLE]**. Oakland, CA: Fireworks, No date. 30.5x17.5 offset color poster. Very Good.

Oblong poster with three panels depicting mothers in Nicaragua and El Salvador during the 1980s in an attempt to establish solidarity between US and Central American women's struggles. Produced by Fireworks, a multi-media activist group founded in 1981 (164551) \$20.00

15. Minkler, Doug. **"SUPPORT THE TROOPS THAT REFUSED" [COVER TITLE]**. Berkeley: Health Workers Pledge Against Militarism Committee, 1992. 1st ed. 26x15.75 in., multi-color offset silkscreen on stiff paper, minor spotting and creasing with one end curling slightly, otherwise bright and crisp . Good. *Original screenprint produced by a Berkeley based artist, first appearing in 1992 to show support for Tehan Jones and Eric Larson, two servicemen and objectors who refused to participate in the Persian Gulf War. Minkler is known for a distinct abstract caricaturesque style which is evident in this piece. He continues to make art opposed to US intervention and global capitalism (164510) \$35.00*



16. **"NOT EVERY BOY WANTS TO BE A SOLDIER" [COVER TITLE]**. San Francisco: John Brown Education Fund / PFOC, 1991. 25x19 in. offset full color poster, untrimmed with offset marking, closed tear to edge, horizontal fold, creasing. Good.

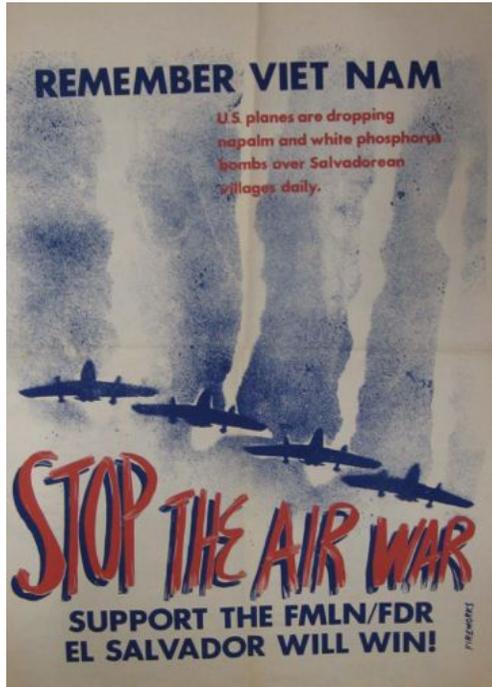
An iconic image produced by the Queer Caucus of the Prarie Fire Organizing Committee. Features a long-haired, bearded man in a pink lace dress propping up a sign with the titular text (164565) \$30.00

17. Prairie Fire Organizing Committee. **"DEATH TO THE KLAN" [COVER TITLE]**. San Francisco: Prairie Fire Organizing Committee / Committee to Free the Pontiac Brothers. 21.5x17 in. offset poster. Very Good. *Depicts police officers escorting a column of Klansmen. The poster advertises an anti-Klan conference and supports "Black & Chicano*

Mexicano National Liberation Struggles." The event, held in San Francisco's Mission District, included films, panels on the Klan and police and Chicano speakers. Endorsed by Women Against Imperialism, New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism, Moslem Students Society, Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika and several others (164531) \$40.00

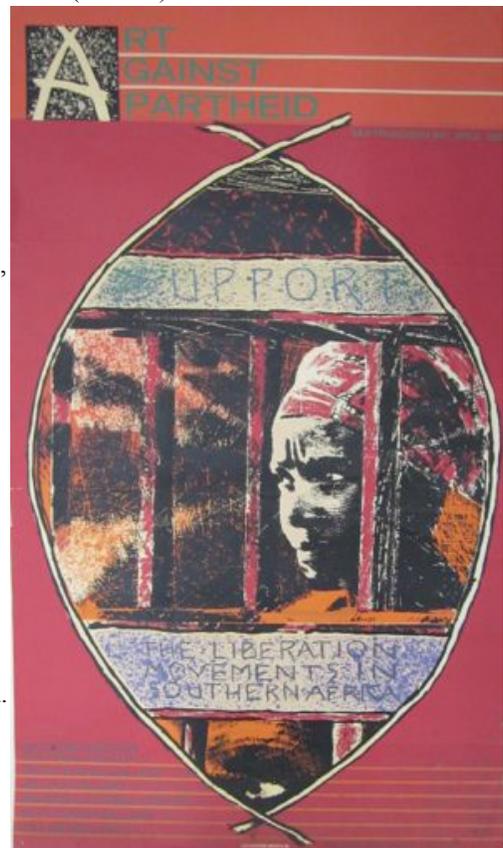


18. **"REAGAN MEANS WAR" [COVER TITLE]**. San Francisco: Fireworks. 23x17.5 in. offset poster, perpendicular folds meet at the center. Very Good. *In this image by the radical multi-media activist group Fireworks, Reagan flashes the peace symbol (or is the victory symbol?) while behind him a mushroom cloud billows and war helicopters close in like a flock of seagulls. The poster was created in solidarity with the people's of Central America, many of whom were fighting wars against dictatorships backed by Reagan's administration (164556) \$35.00*



19. **"REMEMBER VIET NAM, STOP THE AIR WAR" [COVER TITLE]**. San Francisco: Fireworks, No date. 24x18 in. silkscreen printed on newsprint. Very Good. *Original poster decrying the use of napalm and white phosphorous in El Salvador, drawing a comparison to similar actions of the US military in Viet Nam (insinuating actions in Central America will have the same outcome). The poster depicts four bombers dropping their deadly cargo and proclaims its support for the FMLN (164558) \$35.00*

20. Sances, Jos. "SUPPORT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA" [COVER TITLE]. San Francisco: Mission Grafica, 1985. 30x17.5 in. offset poster, five horizontal creases, curling at the top and bottom. Good. *Produced by Jos Sances, associated with Raza Graphics and the art of the Chicano movement in California during the 1960s and 1970s. Advertises a number of solidarity events at galleries and cultural centers in San Francisco and Berkeley. Design is based on traditional Zulu shield designs and depicts a figure with a cap staring sternly at something off-page (164543) \$25.00*



21. Save Joann Little Committee. **"SAVE JOANN LITTLE" [COVER TITLE]**. San Francisco: Save Joann Little Committee. 10x10 in. print, foxing to edges. Good. *Joann Little was tried for the murder of a prison guard who sexually assaulted her. The not guilty verdict at the end of the murder trial was a victory for prisoners' rights advocates, feminists and civil rights activists who mounted a hugely successful fundraising and solidarity campaign. Many also saw the trial as an assertion of the right of women and person's of color to self-defense. This small poster depicts a photograph of Little behind bars. A Save Joann Little Committee stamp with a San Francisco address floats next to her head (164517) \$25.00*